

# VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(contd).

## DEMAND V—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—LEGISLATIVE BODIES—(contd.)

**President :** The next item in the agenda before the House is discussion on demands for grants.

**Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi :** Sir, I beg to oppose this demand ; and in opposing the demand I regret to point out that the Government is not keeping the legislative bodies in confidence. When important questions are asked those questions are ruled out as confidential. First of all, I wish to point out that with regard to the question concerning the subsidy to the Associated Press, last year the Financial Secretary said that a certain sum is given to the Associated Press. When I sent a question as to the exact amount that was given, I got an answer that the matter is confidential. When it is admitted by Government that a certain amount is given for a purpose, is it not proper, Sir, that a question asked on that should be answered. I cannot understand the nature of the confidence in so far as that item is concerned. Further, I understand that this amount is paid out of the item "miscellaneous expenditure". If the amount is spent out of a votable item, why is it that this amount is kept confidential? Then again, Sir, yesterday or the day before yesterday, it was pointed out to the House that a sum of Rs. 50,000 is budgeted for legal advice in connection with the Cochin Harbour. The amount is specified in the Budget but when a question is asked as to whom the amount is to be paid, the Financial Secretary had the audacity to say that it was confidential. I cannot understand, Sir, why the name of a certain person who was employed for Government business is kept confidential when the amount is budgeted in the Preliminary budget. Again, Sir, when a question was asked about the punishment of officers under Government, the Chief Secretary replied that eleven officers were punished. When the names of those officers were asked, the reply was that the names were confidential. I am at a loss to understand, Sir, why the names of these officers are kept confidential. In olden days corrupt officers were not only punished and exposed, but I can cite instances when in the days of Col. Munro, these officers were publicly flogged. And Travancore history shows that if the officer did not improve after undergoing such punishment twice and happened to be found out for a third time, he had to lose his appointment. Then again, Sir, I asked the Chief Secretary to which departments of the State these officers belonged. The Chief Secretary was not prepared to mention even the departments. Again, Sir, the position of Travancore in the Cochin Harbour scheme, its position

in the forthcoming Federation, etc., are not made known to us. We have to get the information on these matters from the newspapers and from the utterances made in the Sister States of Mysore, Cochin and other Indian States.

Then a word about answering of interpellations. When questions are put and repeatedly put we do not get all information as to whether these questions are admitted or disallowed. Certain questions are said to be admitted. But we do not know whether other questions are disallowed. We repeat these questions and they remain unanswered for a very long time.

Another important matter that I have to bring to the notice of the House is that we are not given a chance of electing our Chairman. The panel of Chairmen is nominated by the Government. It is a complaint, Sir, of those members on this side of the House, that when the panel of Chairmen becomes vacant, an opportunity is not given to deserving men. We find that certain persons are given more chances than one.

**President :** Which panel?

**Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi :** The panel of Chairmen of this House.

**President :** What is the complaint?

**Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi :** Equal chances are not given to all the members of the House to be on the panel of Chairmen. Nomination has to be given to all the members. Once a member is nominated, there must be sufficient reason for Government in re-nominating the same man.

**Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai :** May I point out to the member that on account of the frequent change in the panel whether there is not a change of policy in this House?

**Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai :** I rise to a point of order: can we go into the provisions of the Regulation here?

**Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi :** I am not going into the provisions of the Regulation. I am only making a suggestion in the matter of selecting the panel of Chairmen.

**President :** You are making a suggestion to the President?

**Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi :** Yes, Sir.

**President :** What was pointed out was, while trying to do that, you shall not bring a censure motion on anybody.

**Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi :** Not a censure motion on anybody, but a suggestion that the right has to be freely exercised and an opportunity be given to all members instead of again and again nominating the same individual.

Then again, Sir, the conveniences given to the non-official members of the House also require the consideration of Government.

[Ma. P. Padmanabhan Tampi.]

We are given a small shed in the premises here and 30 or 35 of us have to accommodate ourselves there, whereas we find a long array of rooms set apart for the members on the other side of the House. We have to run out of this compound for our lunch. And I tell you, Sir, sincerely that we fail to meet and discuss matters of public importance within the small room set apart for us for want of accommodation. With these observations, I beg to oppose the motion.

**Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai:** Sir, In connection with this motion, I also wish to make a few observations. You may, perhaps, remember that even from the last budget session the non-official members of this House have been seriously and repeatedly complaining that the official members representing the Government do not show as much interest as is expected of them in answering interpellations. It is indeed regrettable to note that questions which were sent up by me and by the other honourable members of this House for the first session should remain unanswered even to this distant date in spite of the fact that they were being renewed for every succeeding session of this House.

**Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai** (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Were these questions brought to the House for answering?

**Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai:** Sir, that is my complaint. Sufficient number of questions are not brought to this House for answering.

**Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai:** Who is to decide that?

**Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai:** Government.

**Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai:** No. I challenge that.

**Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai:** The proceedings of the last few days amply justify the necessity for a repetition of this complaint. The official members should realise that questions are sent up by us not with a view to cause them any inconvenience or trouble or to embarrass the administration; but they are sent up by us sometimes for the purpose of eliciting important information which might profitably be used by the House in carrying on proper and useful discussion and at other times for drawing the attention of Government to the matters contained therein. But, I am sorry to observe that culpable evasion of duty on the part of the official members in this matter very often renders such profitable discussion impossible. We trust that at least in future the official members will try to see that they do not give room for further complaints.

In this connection, I may also point out that it is quite unsatisfactory and highly deplorable that the Government should show such indifference, neglect and delay in the matter of publication of the proceedings of the Legislative Bodies. Even to-day we are not furnished with the copies of the proceedings of the last session. How are we to frame new and supplementary questions on the answers given by the official members to the various interpellations put on the floor of this House last time?

Sir, a word about the Legislative Library. Several of the books in this library are now treated as reference books, so much so they are not made available to the members except during the library hours. The library should be made more useful to the members. The statement made by the Chief Secretary elsewhere makes one rather so inquisitive as to ascertain who exactly is the person that is placed in charge of this library. The Chief Secretary appears to have stated that an Assistant Secretary is in charge of the library, whereas I find from the Rules for the Travancore Legislative Library that it is placed under the supervision and control of the Secretary to Government, Legislative Section. I hope the Chief Secretary will explain to this House whether any changes have been effected in the existing rules and arrangements. I hear that there is a move in some quarters to see that this library is placed under the control of the Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly. If there is such an idea, this House must enter its emphatic protest against that. In the first place there is no justification to place this library, which is meant for the use of both the Houses, under the control of a Secretary to one of the two Houses. Moreover, this library, I understand, is intended to serve as a library for the Huzur Secretariat as well, and as such, the best and proper arrangement is the one that is now contemplated in the Rules.

**Mr. E. P. Varghese :** Is not this House the Upper House; and as such is not our Secretary entitled to be in charge of the Legislative Library?

**Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai :** I have already stated the necessity for placing it under a common Secretary.

Before I conclude I wish to add a few words about the present controversy centring round the questions regarding the widening of the franchise and the representation of the various communities in the Legislative Bodies, which are now engaging the all-absorbing attention of Government.

**President :** Order, order. I have listened with patience to the two speeches made till now; and I did not find any serious objection to many of the observations made by the honourable members, since they were mostly suggestions to the President about the

[President.]

inconveniences now suffered by the honourable members. Certainly, the President is here for the purpose of making such arrangements as will be conducive to the convenience of the honourable members of this House. But Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai is now trenching upon a ground wholly irrelevant to the grant now under discussion. This grant relates to the travelling allowance of non-official members. In deciding what speeches could be made on a demand like that, the main question for consideration is the question of relevancy. I suppose even one's far fetched imagination cannot enable him to suggest that the question of franchise, the question of the representation of the various communities in the Legislature, questions which relate to the future constitution of the Legislature, can technically, or even appropriately, be brought under a discussion relating to the travelling allowance to the non-official members. I would, therefore, appeal to the honourable members once more, as I did at the opening of this discussion, that all speeches made under this demand should not impinge on matters not relevant to this discussion at all. Any matter of a general nature, any matter on which the Government deserve censure, on which the conduct of the Government has to be brought under discussion, can come in only under General Administration. Honourable members ought to have taken advantage of the opportunity that they had to discuss the grant for General Administration. That Demand is placed before the House to enable the honourable members to say that if they consider that the Government does not deserve that grant, it should be stopped. That was the proper occasion for the honourable members to have made their complaints against the Government. Now this is a demand for the travelling allowance to non-official members, and the only point, strictly speaking, that can be discussed under this motion, is whether such travelling allowance should be paid or not paid, and if it should not be paid, why?

**Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai:** May I point out, Sir, that the demand includes also the provision for the Legislative Library?

**President:** Yes, certainly; and that was why I was patiently listening to the member's observations relating to the Library. It was only when the member began the question of changes in the constitution of the Legislature that I had to get up. I am quite amenable to questions like the need for the provision of better conveniences for the honourable members, and all that. But let not the discussion stray away into questions which are not germane to the Demand.

**Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai :** Sir, I shall not pursue that point further.

There is yet another serious matter which I wish to place before the Dewan of Travancore for his earnest and careful consideration. Without meaning any disparagement to anybody, I may point out that owing to the frequent changes in the panel of Chairmen, we find that no continuity of policy is kept up in this House, either in the matter of giving rulings or in matters of procedure. To avoid that, I would suggest that the Dewan-President should, as far as possible, try to preside over the deliberations of this House throughout or that we should also be empowered to elect a Vice-President. Sir, before you happened to become the President of this House, the Dewan of the State used to preside here at all times. We hope that, that healthy convention followed by your predecessor will be re-established by you.

**Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi :** May I ask whether it is not a privilege to the non-official member to be allowed to preside over the deliberations of this House?

**Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai :** I do not covet this sort of privilege. Instead of the present system of nomination of Chairmen, if the House is allowed to elect its own President or Vice-president, that certainly can be regarded as a privilege.

**President :** There is a frequent change in the Panel of Chairmen just to see that that honour is always circulated and is not kept as a monopoly by one or two members.

**Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai :** I do really see that; but my point is that on account of such frequent changes, we do not get any continuity of policy.

**President :** What is the sort of policy that the presiding member can shape?

**Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai :** For instance, we now find different Chairmen giving different, contrary or inconsistent rulings on the same points raised in this House on various occasions. If the Dewan-President presides throughout, or if there is no frequent change in the panel of Chairmen, there will no doubt be some uniformity in the rulings given in this House.

**Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai :** Sir, I also wish to make a few observations under this motion. Sir, travelling allowance includes the sitting fees of the members of the Legislature. I oppose the demand since adequate benefit is not derived out of the amount now spent under T. A. and sitting fees for the non-official members of the Legislature.

[Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai.]

With the inauguration of the new Legislature the people thought that a good deal of legislative business would be transacted in both the Houses. Section 78 of the Council Manual says that it shall be lawful for both the Houses to introduce any measure and subsequently pass it into law, excepting of course certain matters relating to the Royal Family and other such prohibited subjects. It is therefore clear, Sir, that legislative business can originate in this House also. Bills can be introduced here also. At any rate to expedite pending legislative business Government can introduce some Bills here also. But we find, Sir, that the Law Member is not making any use of this splendid opportunity to make headway in our legislative business. Sir, this was the reason why, when the City Municipal Bill was introduced here and the Law Member proposed to appoint a Joint Committee to consider that Bill, I protested against it. We do not like the present procedure adopted by the Law Member.

**Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai:** May I point out to my friend that it was not on that ground that we all voted against it? Our point was that we were not given opportunity to discuss the Bill under that motion for a Joint Committee.

**Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai:** I shall come to that point, Sir.

All important Bills are introduced in the other House; select committees are appointed from there; the reports of the select committees are considered by the other House; and at the last stage the Law Member rushes to this House in haste and asks us to pass them into law. In that heat we have to pass them automatically. We do not even get time to read the provisions carefully and to suggest suitable amendments. I submit therefore that this House is not given its due share of responsibility in passing Bills into law.

Another point is that we are not having meetings of the Legislature as frequently .....

**President:** Who has got the power to summon meetings of the Legislature?

**Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai:** The Dewan.

**President:** You cannot bring the Dewan into discussion under this motion.

**Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai:** This demand relates to the T. A. and sitting fees to the non-official members. I submit that because we are not allowed to meet frequently, the provision under this head is allowed to lapse year after year.

**President :** Your point is that the Dewan does not summon as many meetings as you consider he should. It is therefore I say that the Dewan cannot be dragged into the discussion under this grant. The Dewan has got a separate life.

**Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai :** I shall not pursue that point, Sir.

The Law Member does not seem to be alive to the needs of the country in the matter of legislation. Very important enactments now in force stand in need of substantial amendments; for example, the Criminal Procedure Code, the Penal Code, the Evidence Act, the Transfer of Property Act.....

**Mr. M. Govindan (Nominated) :** Is the Transfer of Property Act an enactment in force in Travancore?

**Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai :** I will explain my position, Sir. Members are not patient and do not allow me to proceed.

**President :** I sympathise with you. (*Laughter*).

**Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai :** I have already brought to the notice of the House on a prior occasion that amendments have to be made in the Criminal Procedure Code and in the Penal Code, in some of the important provisions.

**Mr. E. P. Varghese :** What are the important provisions in the Penal Code which require immediate amendment?

**Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai :** The provisions relating to sedition, communal hatred, capital punishment.....

**President :** Does that satisfy you, Mr. Varghese? (*Laughter*.)

**Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai :** Sir, these enactments here were copied years ago from the enactments then in force in British India. Since then, those enactments have undergone phenomenal changes in British India. Still, our Acts remain absolutely the same as they were decades ago. They are not at all suited to the conditions of the present day and require considerable amendments.

Our position is even worse in regard to the Evidence Act and the Transfer of Property Act which do not form part of our Statute book. The High Court rulings are not uniform as to whether these enactments have the force of law in Travancore or not. One day the High Court says that they have to be followed here, and the next day it says that the Courts in Travancore are not bound by the provisions of these Acts. We are really not able to advise our clients on these matters. It is therefore absolutely necessary, Sir, that our Statute law is brought up-to-date.

[Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai.]

I have already pointed out the step-motherly way in which the Law Member has been treating this House. He has been keeping us idle——

**President:** You have not been idle. (*Laughter.*)

**Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai:** No serious legislative business has so far been placed before us for our consideration. The few Bills that the Law Member has thought it fit to introduce in this House are so unimportant as the regulation for the plucking of roses or the beating of dogs or the breaking of eggs. (*Laughter.*) Sir, that is the type of Bills that the Law Member has considered us worthy of. I cannot understand the attitude of the Law Member in this respect.

**President:** Your time is very nearly up.

**Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai:** With these words I oppose the demand.

**Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai:** Sir, the chief criticism made by Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai is that Bills were brought very hot into this House and that the honourable members were not given sufficient time to study the provisions carefully and to make the necessary changes. This is perhaps true to some extent and I thank the House for the great indulgence it has been giving to me in this matter. I plead guilty, Sir, that I have been forced, in some instances, to bring Bills very hot to this House. Even then when I explained the circumstances in which I had to do so the House was good enough to pay heed to my appeals and to pass the Bills immediately. Sir, then coming to the question itself, on a previous occasion I had promised that whenever possible I shall in the future give sufficient time to this House to study the Bills brought in here from the Assembly.

**Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi** (*Mavelikara and Kartikapalli cum Kunnathur*): May I point out to the learned Law Member that the present complaint is that this House has been never asked to do real legislative business?

**President:** This House has been kept lazy; that is the complaint.

**Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai:** I shall try my best, Sir, to see that when next the House is called upon to do legislative business they are given ample previous notice.

In regard to the complaints that, in spite of the legal provisions enabling Bills to be originated in both the Houses, most of the Bills are being introduced only in the Assembly, I submit that the position of Government is somewhat delicate and perhaps difficult. Sir, Government want the Legislature to pass the Bills. They have to

satisfy both the Houses. Government have so to arrange their business that they would be able to get the approval of both the Houses. But I think, Sir, that, as a rule, legislations are usually introduced only in the Lower House everywhere. That House carefully considers the various provisions and makes the necessary amendments. It is the function of the Lower House to do all this spade work. Then the matter is brought in here to the Upper House for a comprehensive revision. The Upper House gets the privilege of reviewing the work done by the Lower House, and, if and when necessary, to send back the measure to the Lower House with its suggestions.

**Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi:** Is the Law Member making an authoritative pronouncement on the functions of the two Houses of our Legislature, under the present constitution? Does his statement bind the Government?

**President:** He distinctly said that that was what he thinks of it.

**Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai:** In the Indian Legislature also there are two Chambers. In Great Britain also they have two Chambers, the House of Commons and the House of Lords. In both these places, important Bills are generally introduced in the Lower House and then brought to the Upper House for revision.

**Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai:** What objection did the Law Member has in introducing the District and City Municipalities Bills in this House, especially when he had in view the constitution of a Joint Select Committee?

**Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai:** As I was explaining, Sir, ordinarily, Bills are introduced in the Lower House only, and, after spade work, are taken to the Upper House, for revision.

**Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai:** May I ask the Law Member whether it is not easier for him to get through his Bills if they are introduced here?

**Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai:** Nothing will be more pleasing to me, Sir, than to get the Bills passed. But there is another body to be reckoned with, namely the Lower House.

**Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai:** How many Bills are still pending introduction in the Legislature?

**Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai:** There is a number of them.

**Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai:** May I ask the Law Member whether it was not the intention of the Regulation constituting the Legislature that this House also must be given identical powers in the matter of legislation as the other House?

**Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai :** I am not sure of the intention, Sir. But there is the provision that Bills may be introduced in either Chamber. I do not think there is any justification to hold that the intention was, say, that 50 per cent. of the Bills must be introduced here and the other 50 per cent. in the Assembly.

As I said, Sir, ordinarily, it is for the Lower House to deal with the Bills originally. The function of the Upper House is ordinarily to revise the work done by the Lower House. I may say, Sir, that there is no unwillingness on the part of Government to introduce Bills here.

**Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai :** May I ask whether any legislative enactment has ever originated in the House of Lords with which he has compared this House so far as its legislative function is concerned?

**Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai :** Yes. Bills can be originated in the House of Lords too.

I may point out, Sir, that some Bills have been introduced in this House also, for instance, the Boilers Bill and the Survey and Boundaries Bill. (*Laughter.*)

**President :** Oh! You mean steam boilers? (*Laughter.*)

**Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai :** Yes, Sir. Those Bills have now to be passed by the Lower House. As I said, it is not a question of unwillingness to originate Bills here. It is a question of expediency and adopting the line of least resistance.

**Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai :** Sir—

**Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai :** I submit, Sir, that we have time for this demand up to 12-40.

**President :** Only up to 12-35.

**Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai :** Up to 12-40, Sir.

**President :** You want five minutes more? You have made a calculation?

**Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai :** I am only submitting that there is time for other non-official members also to speak on this demand, before the Chief Secretary speaks.

**President :** Five minutes' time does not make much difference. I have no objection to allow any of the honourable members to speak, if they want.

(*No non-official member came forward to speak.*)

**President :** So, your appeal has fallen on deaf ears, Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai.

**Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai :** Sir, I do not think it is necessary for me to make a long speech in reply to the criticisms made by the honourable members on the other side of the House. Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai referred to the management of the Legislative Library. At present, it is under the charge of the Assistant Secretary of the Legislative Section.

**Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai :** Is it not stated in the rules that it must be under the Secretary to Government in the Legislative Section?

**Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai :** Sir, there is a Secretary in the Legislative Section. And under him there is also an Assistant Secretary who is in immediate charge of the Library. The Legislative Section is common to both the Houses, so that the library cannot be said to be either under the Assembly Secretary or under the Council Secretary. It is under the officer in immediate charge of the Legislative Section which, as I said, is common to both the Houses. Before any alteration in the present arrangement is made, I assure the House that the observations made by the honourable members will be duly considered by Government. I did not say in the other House that the library would be put in charge of the Assembly Secretary. All that I said was that the suggestions made by the honourable members of the Assembly would be considered.

**Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai :** Does not the member think that the Secretary in charge of the Legislative Library should be one with law qualifications?

**Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai :** I do not think so, Sir.

**Mr. E. P. Varghese :** Are the Government aware that many of the important books in the library are kept very long by the officers of the Secretariat?

**Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai :** No, Sir; I am not aware of it. On the other hand, I know that some honourable non-official members of both the Houses take books from the library and do not return them in time, and sometimes do not return them at all. (*Laughter.*)

**Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai :** Is it not a fact that when non-official members lose library books they pay, whereas official members who lose such books do not pay at all?

**Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai :** No, Sir. Whenever a book is lost the member responsible for it, whether official or non-official, has to pay for it.

I can only say, Sir, that all the suggestions made by the honourable members will be very carefully considered before any alteration is made in the present arrangement.

[Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.]

Sir, Mr. Padmanabhan Tampi complained that the non official members are put to some inconvenience during the sittings of the Legislature. I must admit, that there is some little inconvenience now. Unfortunately, we have to meet in this Hall; and the premises are so limited that Government have even to indent upon the kindness of the Director of Public Instruction for putting up sheds in the adjoining college compound. Under existing conditions, I do not think it possible for Government to do anything more than what is being done. Honourable members are aware that provision has been made in the budget for the construction of a Council Chamber. When it is finished, I am sure honourable members will have ample convenience and facilities. But it is very doubtful whether even then it would be possible to allot one room to each one of the non-official members as suggested by Mr. Padmanabhan Tampi.

**Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi :** I never said so. All that I said was that now some 30 of us have to remain huddled together in a small room.

**Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai :** Since he referred to the fact that each one of the official members was having a separate room for himself, I thought he was suggesting that the same convenience should be provided for the non-official members also.

Sir, in regard to the answering of interpellations, I must admit that there is some delay. But, delay is inevitable in some cases. Questions have to be referred to the heads of departments for the supply of answers. In some cases they have to refer them to their subordinates.

**Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai :** Then, how is it that the questions asked in the Assembly are being answered?

**Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai :** Sir, in the Assembly also there is the same complaint. During the current session, Government received about 700 questions in the Assembly, out of which they were able to answer only 200 and odd. In this House out of the 260 questions received, Government have answered about 120. The proportion of questions answered is greater in this House than in the other.

**Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai :** What is the difficulty in furnishing information first asked for about two years ago, and at every session of this House since then?

**Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai :** If the honourable member will kindly let me have the specific questions he has in mind I shall certainly look into the matter. I can assure him that such delay, if any, is not intentional on the part of Government. Once a question is admitted, Government will surely answer it if the answer could be gathered.

**Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai :** May I point out that even questions to which answers are available within the four walls of the Secretariat have not been answered in time?

**Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai :** Sir, I am not aware of any such instance ; and I repeat that if such instances are brought to my notice I shall look into the matter.

It was complained, Sir, further, that there was some delay in the publication of the Proceedings of this House. I must admit that there has been some delay. There is only one Government Press, and there is such a rush of work there that it is not possible to get all the work done as expeditiously as the Government would wish.

**President :** Honourable members have complained that the proceedings of the last meeting have not yet been circulated to them. That is not at all complimentary to the officers concerned. I hope special measures will be adopted for expediting the publication of the proceedings and the circulation of the books to the honourable members.

**Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai :** I assure the House, Sir, that attempts will be made to avoid delay in future.

Mr. Padmanabhan Tampi also complained that the Government were not taking the House into their confidence in treating several matters as confidential. I may assure the House, Sir, that it is only after carefully considering all aspects of the various questions that the Government decide whether, in the larger public interests, any matter should be treated as confidential or not.

Whenever a matter is not made public it does not mean that the Government have purposely kept back information from the honourable members with a motive behind it.

**Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai :** Then, may I know how the name of a particular individual for whom a remuneration or allotment is made in the budget is stated as confidential?

**Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai :** I do not know whether the honourable member has any particular individual in view. I believe he refers to the honorarium for advice. It may be paid to any one whose advice is taken. It may be A on one occasion and B on another.

**Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai :** Am I to understand that, even with regard to the disbursements made in the previous years, the name of the persons to whom it was paid should not be given out ; the Financial Secretary said like that?

**Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai :** I do not remember what the Financial Secretary said.

[Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai.]

Sir, the point raised by Mr. Nilakanta Pillai regarding the introduction of Bills in the two Houses has been answered by Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai. All that I can say is that the suggestions of the honourable members will be carefully considered and everything possible done, to remove all legitimate grievances.

**President:** Mr. Nilakanta Pillai dwelt upon a matter on which Government may have to say something and the Law Member did not take notice of it. The complaint was that the laws and rules of Travancore are ancient. Although their laws are framed on the British Indian model they have remained where they were and they are not advancing. Much water has flown under the bridge and our laws have not been brought up-to-date. I hope that is his point.

**Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai:** May I say a word about it, Sir?

**President:** Yes, if you can do it.

**Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai:** It has to be admitted that some of our laws are rather ancient. But Government are going to take steps to amend these laws and I may say with your permission, Sir, that the Government have under contemplation the appointment of a committee to examine the existing laws and suggest amendments so as to make them up-to-date.

**Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai:** May I know whether it is a fact that the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil was appointed 15 years ago for the revision of the Criminal Procedure Code?

**President:** Are you referring to the Law Member now in office or his predecessor?

**Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai:** His predecessor.

**President:** Well, I have not got the information from the Law Member. Anyhow, Government are going to take up the question of revising the ancient laws and they are going to appoint a committee and bring all ancient laws up-to-date.

**Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi:** Is it with regard to amendment of laws or introduction of laws?

**Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai:** Both, in order to bring all laws up-to-date.

**President:** Now, Mr. John Kattakayam has to wind up.

**Mr. J. John Kattakayam:** ഞാൻ എന്റെ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിൽവലിക്കുന്നു.

**President:** The motion before the House is that a sum of Rs. 55,000 be given under Demand V—Legislative Bodies. The question I have to put is whether that demand is made.

The motion was carried and the grant was made.